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LETTER DATED 10 MARCH 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that at 1200 hours on 5 March 1997 United States forces on station in the Arabian Gulf boarded the Iraqi vessel Al-Bakr while it was engaged in maintenance work on light-beacon buoys inside Iraqi territorial waters near Mina' al-Bakr and searched it over a half-hour period.

I request your intervention with the United States of America with a view to inducing it to desist from acts of provocation that are incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and international law inasmuch as they are in flagrant violation of the sovereignty of a State Member of the United Nations. They have the effect of creating a state of tension and instability in the region instead of promoting its security, and they are entirely unwarranted. In accordance with the principle of State responsibility, I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for the damage caused by these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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